

REMARKS

The Examiner noted that a certified copy of the German priority application had not been filed. However, such certified copy was previously filed with the international application. Thus, it is believed to be unnecessary to file a certified copy of the German priority application in connection with this application in order to perfect the claim for priority.

The Examiner indicated that the two foreign prior art references identified in the specification had not been considered. The applicant appreciates the Examiner's observation in this regard and notes that the U.S. equivalents for such foreign prior art references were listed on the PTO-1449 form filed with the application and, therefore, have been considered by the Examiner.

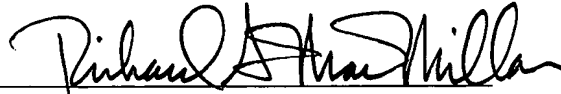
The Examiner objected to the drawings as not showing certain features in the claims. Enclosed herewith is a replacement sheet for Fig. 1 of the drawings that shows the blind holes 27 recited in Claim 1. The specification has been amended to correspond with the amendments to Fig. 1. With respect to Claim 2, the attachment screws 21 illustrated in Fig. 1 are expansion screws. With respect to Claim 3, the countersunk orientation of the ends of the attachments screws is not specifically shown, but is believed to be clearly understood from the specification and plain meaning of that term. Lastly, with respect to Claim 4, the attachment screws are shown in Fig. 3.

The specification has also been amended to address the Examiner's concerns regarding the reference to the international application, the Summary portion of the specification, and the language of Claims 2 and 3.

Lastly, the Examiner objected to certain informalities in the language of several of the claims in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the redundant and potentially confusing language that the step-like recess "starts from the first end face." Claim 1 has also been amended to more clearly recite the attachments screws and their relationship to Claims 2 and 3. Claim 3 has been amended to clarify the

language noted by the Examiner. Lastly, Claims 11, 13, and 14 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis objections noted by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. MacMillan", written over a horizontal line.

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